

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING A
CLANDESTINE MODE OF OPERATION**

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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

10 A radio communication device includes a surveillance mode key (220)
which when activated causes the radio communication device to enter a surveillance
or clandestine mode of operation. In this mode, the radio communication device's
volume setting is adjusted to a very low level or muted and its display (216) is
switched to a red night light backlight (224). Optionally, other lights on the radio can
15 also be switched to red night lights which minimize the chance of the radio being
detected. A method for entering the surveillance mode includes the steps of
determining if the surveillance mode is desired, and if so, automatically adjusting the
lights and sounds of the radio to their predetermined surveillance mode settings.